

sack, and a pass block in the Rams' victory over the Cincinnati Bengals.

Ernest is a prime example of hard work, dedication, and has a contagious love for the game of football.

His work ethic and drive are examples for us all to follow, and we are blessed to have him here in the First District of Georgia.

I Congratulate Ernest on being a world champion.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNIVERSAL PREKINDERGARTEN AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ACT OF 2022

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Universal Prekindergarten and Early Childhood Education Act of 2022, a version of which I have introduced in seven previous Congresses. My bill would establish and expand prekindergarten programs in public and public charter schools for three- and four-year-old children. The prekindergarten years are critical for children's brain development.

My bill seeks a breakthrough in public education by providing funding for states to add prekindergarten for children at three and four years of age, like kindergarten programs for five-year-old children now routinely available in public schools. This bill would eliminate major shortcomings of unevenly available day care and, importantly, would take advantage of the safe facilities required in public schools.

My bill provides federal funds to states, which must be matched by at least 20 percent of a state's own funds, to establish or expand universal, voluntary prekindergarten in public and public charter schools, regardless of income. The classes, which would be part of a full-day program and run throughout the entire school year, must be taught by teachers who possess equivalent qualifications to those teaching other grades in the school. The funds would supplement, not supplant, other federal funds for early childhood education. The unique moneysaving aspect of my bill is that it uses the existing public-school infrastructure and trained teachers to make early childhood education available to all, saving billions of dollars in implementation costs.

The success of Head Start and other prekindergarten programs, combined with new scientific evidence on the importance of brain development in early childhood, virtually mandates the expansion of early childhood education to all children. Early learning programs mainly have been available only to the affluent, who can afford them, and to some low-income families in programs such as Head Start, which would be unaffected by my bill. My bill provides a practical way to universal, public preschool education for the majority of families. The goal of the bill is to afford the benefits of early childhood education to the working poor, lower middle class and middle class, most of whom have been left out of this essential education for their children.

We cannot afford to allow the most fertile years for childhood development to pass unenriched. My bill responds to the great

needs of parents who seek early childhood education, as well as to today's brain science, which shows that a child's brain development begins much earlier than had been previously understood.

Considering the staggering cost of day care, the inaccessibility of early childhood education and the opportunity that early education offers to improve a child's chances of success, schooling for three- and four-year-old children is overdue. The absence of viable options for families demands our immediate attention.

My bill reflects what jurisdictions throughout the nation increasingly are trying to accomplish. The District of Columbia, for example, has achieved an extensive integration of early childhood education as part of a larger effort to improve D.C. public schools.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING THE CAREER OF DAVID BAYNE

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a resident of Connecticut's 4th Congressional District and a friend, David Bayne.

David is an attorney and the President of the Board of Directors of Connecticut CASA, a great organization dedicated to fostering a statewide network of Court Appointed Special Advocates to serve the best interests of children who have dealt with abuse or neglect, and he's been a committed public servant to the town of Darien for nearly 20 years.

During his career, David has been a Selectman, a member of the Representative Town Meeting in Darien, a transportation specialist for the Connecticut League of Women Voters, and a member of the Weed Beach Building Committee. He also spent 17 years on Darien's Democratic Town Committee and served in various roles including Chairman.

David has always understood the importance of service and activism, and the capacity of those seeking to get involved and positively impact the lives of Connecticut residents. It has been a pleasure to work with David and I look forward to seeing the next phase of David's career of service to Darien, and the State of Connecticut.

DEVIN THOMA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Devin Thoma for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Devin Thoma is a student at Three Creeks K-8 and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Devin Thoma is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all

levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Devin Thoma for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

MRS. TERESA VERA PEREZ

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Teresa Vera Perez of Conception, Texas, who dedicated her life to serving the people of Duval County.

Mrs. Perez was born on November 25, 1933, to Saturnina Vera and Francisca Saenz Vera. At the age of 18, she married Mr. Asildo Lopez Perez with whom she shared a life for 57 years. During this time, they raised five children together: Elena, Ester, Eloy, and twins Eduardo and Ernesto.

Mrs. Perez first ran for Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2 in 1977 and won, making her the first female Justice of the Peace in Duval County history. She served a total of three terms, becoming a lifelong member of the Texas Justices of the Peace and Constables Association and Chaplain for the South Texas Association of Justices of the Peace and Constables. In addition to her time serving as Justice of the Peace, Mrs. Perez also worked as a Nurse's Aide at the P&S Hospital, previously located in Alice, Texas. Following her 12 years as Justice of the Peace, she continued to serve as an Honorable Judge by joining couples in matrimony.

Mrs. Perez was an active member of the Duval County and the Conception communities throughout her lifetime. She proudly served as a Eucharistic Minister and member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Altar and Rosary Society as well as the Guadalupana and the Fiesta Del Rancho Committee. She was also crowned Queen of the Elderly Nutrition program twice. In 1993, at the age of 60 years old, she obtained her GED diploma in Alice, Texas. Mrs. Perez passed away on January 23, 2014. Although she is no longer with us, her memory remains eternal.

Madam Speaker, I stand here today to acknowledge the countless achievements and charitable acts of Mrs. Teresa Vera Perez. She devoted her life to the betterment of her community and her legacy will be no doubt be remembered by all who knew her. Her general love for life, her family, the Lord, and commitment to her neighbors is admirable. May she rest in peace.

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT DANIEL CUADRA

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Robert Daniel Cuadra.